

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION
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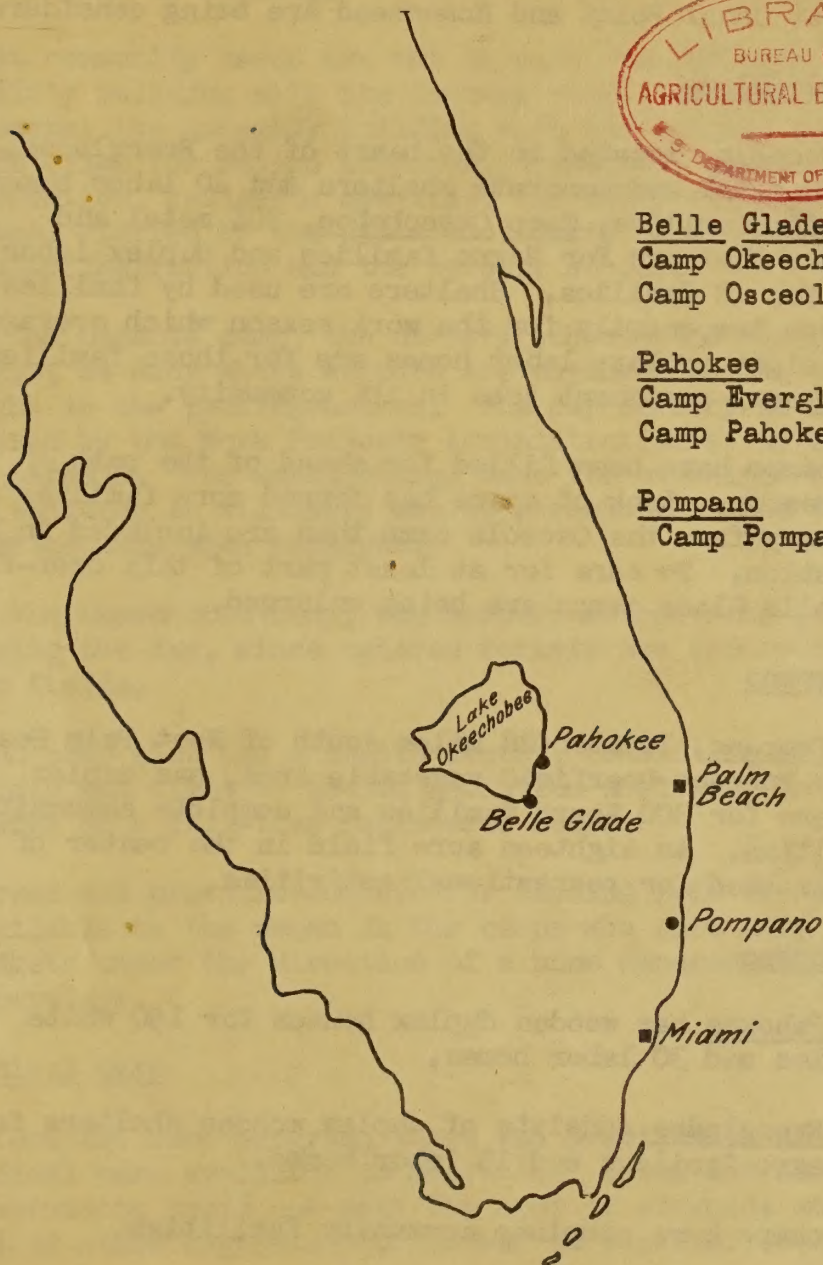
FLORIDA MIGRATORY LABOR CAMP PROGRAM



Belle Glade
Camp Okeechobee
Camp Osceola

Pahokee
Camp Everglades
Camp Pahokee

Pompano
Camp Pompano



To provide temporary housing, sanitary, health and community facilities for families following seasonal crop work in vegetable-growing areas, two migratory labor camps were opened by the Farm Security Administration at Belle Glade in April, 1940. This year, two camps were opened at Pahokee and one at Pompano. Additional camps at Canal Point and Homestead are being considered.

At Belle Glade

Camp Osceola, located in the heart of the Everglades, has 150 metal and concrete shelters and 20 labor homes for white families; Camp Okeechobee, 304 metal and concrete shelters for Negro families and duplex labor homes for 42 families. Shelters are used by families who come temporarily for the work season which averages about eight months; labor homes are for those families having semi-permanent jobs in the community.

Both camps have been filled far ahead of the peak of the work season. Lack of space has forced more families to turn away from the Osceola camp than are included in its population. To care for at least part of this over-flow, the Belle Glade camps are being enlarged.

At Pompano

Camp Pompano, located 28 miles south of West Palm Beach in the Pompano-Deerfield vegetable area, has duplex shelters for 300 Negro families and complete community facilities. An eighteen acre field in the center of the camp is used for recreational activities.

At Pahokee

Camp Pahokee has wooden duplex houses for 150 white families and 30 labor homes.

Camp Everglades consists of duplex wooden shelters for 300 Negro families and 13 labor homes.

Both camps have complete community facilities.

Camp Facilities

This is practically the same for all the camps. The following description, however, is based on the first two camps opened—Osceola and Okeechobee—which have had a year to develop.

Most community needs are met in each camp through: the utility building with its laundry rooms, toilets and showers; the assembly building with its reading rooms, auditorium for motion pictures, dramatics, indoor recreation, religious meetings; the fully equipped school staffed by the state and county departments of public instruction and the nursery school.

At the Osceola camp, the nursery school runs day and night, as many white workers are employed during the night in the packing-houses. The day nursery is maintained by the Work Projects Administration at no cost to parents. The small charge made for overnight care of children is willingly met by parents who need the service only when employed.

In the Okeechobee camp, the nursery school runs only during the day, since colored workers are employed in the fields.

Each camp also has a health center, consisting of a clinic and eight to twelve isolation shelters, in charge of a full-time registered nurse.

Stoves and pressure-cookers for canning food are also available to the women in the camps who plan home budgets under the direction of a home management supervisor.

Medical Care

Before the camp program, there was practically no medical care available to migrants. Local and state governments could not meet the cost of sickness among out-of-state migrants who flocked to Florida. Conse-

quently, the Florida Migratory Labor Health Association was organized by the Farm Security Administration with the cooperation of the State Medical Association and the State Department of Health. The full-time nurses and the doctors, who serve part-time at the migratory camp clinics, are paid by this Association.

Any person who cannot obtain medical care elsewhere is treated.

Medical care available at the camps includes the services of a local physician for serious illness, clinical attention, physical examination, and a nurse who treats minor illnesses and conducts child welfare and pre-natal clinics. A convalescent center to serve most of the camps will probably be completed in the fall of 1941. It will be equipped to care for 40 patients at any one time.

Employment Services

All families living in the camps register with the State Employment Service.

Camp Management

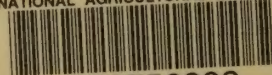
A manager and small staff, employed by the Farm Security Administration, are in charge of camp property, operations, applications, and assignment of quarters.

Self-government by a Camp Council, elected by residents, is encouraged in every way possible. All social, recreational, religious, educational, and resident welfare activities are in charge of the Camp Council and its sub-committees.

Each family head contributes two hours work per week to general camp maintenance. Residents also regularly contribute to a camp welfare fund.

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